

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 22

1230 Hours October 31, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

Next Conference Call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2005, 0930 hours

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: **Southwest VA:** Monday 31 October - Mostly sunny, High temperatures in mid to upper 60s, Light winds Monday night - Mostly clear, Low temperatures in upper 30s to low 40s, Light winds.
Tuesday 1 November - Partly cloudy, High temperatures in low to mid 60s, West winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 20%.
Tuesday night - Partly cloudy, Low temperatures around 40, Light winds. Isolated rain showers in the evening, chance of precipitation 20%.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator on scene assisting locality.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

ESF 8 – Health & Medical: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Dr. Sue Cantrell is the State point of contact. Gastrointestinal illnesses and chicken pox cases are being closely monitored for any new outbreaks. Monitoring chicken pox cases in Powell Valley schools continues. No cases of chicken pox reported since Friday , October 28, 2005.

Water levels continue to fluctuate with levels dropping steadily for the last three days, Blivets will remain in place.

Water distribution to special needs on medically restricted extremely low sodium diets to continue. VDH will monitor food establishment's compliance with plans, and will monitor results of on going water tests. All boil water notices have been lifted. All holding tanks and storage areas at the water treatment plant are full.

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. ***Nine soldiers remain on mission.***

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Two Appalachia backup wells still not operational, expect them to be ready the week of Oct 31st and will sample when pumps/electricity are connected. The Town of Big Stone Gap is acquiring a pump that will return the water overflow to the water treatment plant. ***There is a renewed emphasis with Public Service Announcements to inform citizens the situation has not improved and still remains critical.***

MECC is exploring an abandoned well site on the property as a potential potable water source.

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